

Message Text

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USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 3256

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, UR

SUBJECT: USA JOURNAL ON MBFR

REF: MOSCOW 0178

1. SUMMARY. THE MARCH ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF THE USA
INSTITUTE CONTAINS A SHORT ARTICLE ON MBFR TITLED "REALISM:
KEY TO SUCCESS OF THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS." THE AUTHOR,
V.M. KOMLYEV, WHO IS NOT A USA INSTITUTE STAFF MEMBER,
MAINTAINS THAT REDUCTIONS MUST BE "OF EQUAL VALUE," AND
THAT THE BALANCE OF FORCES WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN CENTRAL
EUROPE IS "APPROXIMATELY" EQUAL. HE SAYS THAT ASYMMETRIC
CUTS IN PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF GROUND FORCES WOULD
CHANGE BALANCE TO NATO'S ADVANTAGE. END SUMMARY.
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2. THE ARTICLE INTRODUCES SOME NEW TWISTS IN THE FORMULATIONS IT USES REGARDING THE SOVIET POSITIONS ON MBFR. IT PICKS UP USE OF THE TERM "REDUCTIONS OF EQUAL VALUE" (RAVNOTSENNYE SOKRASHCHENIYA) USED IN AN EDITORIAL IN RED STAR IN JANUARY (REFTEL). IN DISCUSSING WHAT THE WARSAW PACT STATES WANT FROM THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS, IT ALSO SAYS THAT THE BALANCE OF FORCES WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN CENTRAL EUROPE IS "APPROXIMATELY EQUAL" (PRIMERNO RAVNOYE SOOTNOSHENIYE SIL).

3. KOMLYEV GOES ON TO EXPLAIN, HOWEVER, THAT THE "REAL BALANCE OF FORCES" CREATES NO BASIS FOR WESTERN INSISTENCE ON ASYMMETRIC REDUCTIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IMPLIES THAT HE HAS PRIMARILY IN MIND ASYMMETRIC CUTS IN GROUND FORCES, NOT IN WEAPONS SYSTEMS, BY SAYING THAT "A CHANGE IN THE COMPARABLE PERSONNEL STRENGTHS OF GROUND FORCES WOULD LEAD TO A CHANGE IN THE GENERAL BALANCE OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO NATO'S ADVANTAGE."

4. KOMLYEV EMPHASIZES THAT NATO REFUES TO REDUCE ITS AIR FORCES AND "AVOIDS" THE QUESTION OF A REDUCTION OF WEAPONS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND OF COMBAT EQUIPMENT.

5. HE SAYS THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE FRG TO NATO MILITARY STRENGTH IS "ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT" AND NOTES THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAS STATED THAT THE FRG PLAYS A "DECISIVE ROLE" IN THE DEFENSE OF EUROPE.

6. KOMLYEV REFERS TO THE SCHLESINGER PRESS CONFERENCE OF DECEMBER 11, 1974, CLAIMING THAT IT CONTAINS AN "UNAMBIGUOUS INDICATION OF THE GREAT ROLE" PLAYED BY NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN NATO PLANS.

7. KOMLYEV DESCRIBES THE WARSAW PACT OCTOBER 1974 PROPOSAL, MAKING THE USUAL CLAIM THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT NATO POSITIONS. HE ARGUES THAT THE WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW THE PARTICIPANTS

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"TO TRANSLATE WORDS INTO ACTIONS" AND CONTINUES THAT "EVEN A RELATIVELY SMALL REDUCTION" WOULD DO MUCH TO IMPROVE THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AND SHOW THE PARTICIPANTS' READINESS TO BEGIN MILITARY DETENTE IN EUROPE.

8. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT KOMLYEV IS NOT A STAFF MEMBER OF THE USA INSTITUTE. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO SET UP AN

APPOINTMENT WITH HIM TO DISCUSS THE ARTICLE.
STOESSEL

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